

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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3 Teens Rescued from Overturned Vehicle that fell nearly 100 feet

This is a preliminary report based on information provided early this morning from deputies on the scene.

At approximately 5:30 PM yesterday, YCSO deputies were dispatched to a vehicle over the side off Fossil Creek Rd near the intersection with the road to Childs Power Plant. This area is located outside of Strawberry, Arizona, and borders 2 counties. The accident scene was nearly 15 miles from Hwy 260. It was a single vehicle accident with 3 teenaged female occupants inside the 4-door sedan. (2 are 16 years of age including the driver and 1 is 17 years of age).

Deputies indicated the trio was on their way home after a day outdoor activities when they came around a turn too fast and lost control. Their vehicle went off the edge and fell more than 100' coming to rest upside down on top of the driver who was ejected. The girl remained trapped under the vehicle for more than 4 hours but was removed with what appeared to be minor injuries. Despite being trapped for over 4 hours, she was conscious and talking during the extraction. A deputy noted that there was a depression in the roof of the vehicle which created a cavity between the roof and the ground. It appeared her body occupied part of this space thus avoiding the full weight of the car. Just after 9 pm she was on her way to the Flagstaff Medical Center by helicopter for treatment of apparent non-life threatening injuries. The two other girls had been removed from the vehicle earlier. One of them was flown to Flagstaff Medical Center and the other was taken by ground ambulance to the Verde Valley Medical Center in Cottonwood. There were no signs of drug or alcohol use during the initial investigation. Seatbelt use or non-use involving the occupants has been reported yet.

It should be noted that Gila County SAR, Gila County Sheriff's Office, along with multiple fire fighters from Strawberry, worked together with YCSO showing great teamwork for the extraction despite the initial uncertainty of jurisdictional boundaries. YCSO would like to commend these assisting agencies.

The investigation is ongoing. All 3 teens are from Flagstaff. Attempts to obtain overall scene photos for media use were unsuccessful due to darkness.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:

www.ycsoaz.gov